

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action dated April 30, 2004, claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,075,699 to Rife (hereinafter "Rife"). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rife. Claims 8-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Interview of July 20, 2004

On July 20, 2004, Applicants' representative met with the Examiner to discuss the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rife. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed the features "a contact portion to be brought into elastic contact with a lower edge of said mounting hole at a lower part of said leg body, and said contact portion has a slope which slopes out-downward from the side of said vertical leg body."

Applicants' representative explained that, in an embodiment of the instant invention as depicted in Figure 12, the "contact portion" includes the slope portion 12a of an anchoring leg. Applicants' representative pointed to the disclosure at page 18, line 17 to page 19, line 10 of the specification describing the contact portion as having a slope 12a which is brought into contact with the lower end edge 17a of the anchoring hole 17b of the base plate 17. Applicants' representative explained that, as depicted in Figure 12, the contact portion 12a slopes downward and outward from the side of the vertical leg body. Applicants' representative argued that, in

contrast to the contact portion 12a in the above-mentioned embodiment of the instant invention as recited in independent claim 6, the slope portion 48 of Rife is directed inward rather than outward.

During the Interview, the Examiner agreed that the outward and downward direction of the slope of the contact portion is not taught by Rife. Nevertheless, as stated on the Interview Summary Form (PTOL-413), the Examiner suggested that claim 6 be amended to recite “slopes outward and downward” rather than “slopes out-downward” to clarify the out-downward direction of the slope of the contact portion.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants amend claim 6 as provided herein to improve the form of these claims.

The Objections and the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rife. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rife. Claims 8-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amend independent claim 6 as provided herein to improve the form of this claim, and not to distinguish over the art of record. Applicants traverse the objections to claims 8-12 and the rejections of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a), respectively.

During the Interview of July 20, 2004, Applicants' representative explained that, in an embodiment of the instant invention as depicted in Figure 12, the “contact portion” includes the

slope portion 12a of an anchoring leg. Applicants' representative pointed to the disclosure at page 18, line 17 to page 19, line 10 of the specification describing the contact portion as having a slope 12a which is brought into contact with the lower end edge 17a of the anchoring hole 17b of the base plate 17. Applicants' representative explained that, as depicted in Figure 12, the contact portion 12a slopes downward and outward from the side of the vertical leg body. Applicants' representative argued that, in contrast to the contact portion 12a in the above-mentioned embodiment of the instant invention as recited in independent claim 6, the slope portion 48 of Rife is directed inward rather than outward. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Rife does not teach or suggest the contact portion having a slope which slopes out-downward from the side of the vertical leg body as recited in independent claim 6.

Nevertheless, Applicants amend independent claim 6 to recite "said contact portion has a slope which slopes outward and downward from the side of said vertical leg body" rather than "said contact portion has a slope which slopes out-downward from the side of said vertical leg body" to clarify the out-downward direction of the slope of the contact portion, in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner, as stated in the Interview Report Form (PTOL-413). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6, as amended, is allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that claims 7-12 should be allowed at least because of their dependence upon allowable claim 6, upon which they depend, respectively, and for the additional features that they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 8-12 and the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application, withdrawal of all rejections and objections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

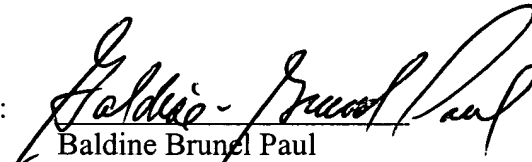
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 28, 2004

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